

What is claimed is:

1. A medical suction device, comprising:
  - a body including a conduit and a valve bore; and
  - a valve including a stem having a valve opening, a handle, and a flange, said flange joined to said body and at least portions of said stem positioned in said valve bore;

5 wherein said handle contacts said flange when said valve is in an open state in which fluid can move through said valve opening for passage through said conduit.

  
- 2. A medical suction device of Claim 1 wherein said flange includes a boss and a channel and in which said handle moves in said channel when said valve is changed from a closed state to said open state.
  
- 3. A medical suction device of Claim 2 wherein said boss has a tapered guide surface that tapers inwardly towards said body.
  
- 4. A medical suction device of Claim 1 wherein said flange is integral with said body.
  
- 5. A medical suction device of Claim 1 wherein at least one of said valve bore and said stem tapers inwardly from said handle.
  
- 6. A medical suction device of Claim 1 wherein said stem is held in said valve bore independently of any fastener different from said flange.
  
- 7. A medical suction device of Claim 1 wherein said body has a head with an inlet adjacent one end thereof and an outlet adjacent an opposite end thereof and in which said valve is located closer to said inlet than said outlet.

8. A medical suction device of Claim 1 wherein said valve consists of said stem, said handle, said knob and said flange.

9. A valve as part of a medical suction device having a body and a valve bore formed in said body, comprising:

a flange joined to said body;

5 a stem having an open state to allow passage of fluid through said valve and a closed state to substantially prevent passage of fluid through said valve; and

a handle joined to said stem;

wherein said stem is held in said open state in said valve bore independently of any fastener.

10. A valve of Claim 9 wherein said flange includes a boss with tapered guide surface and a channel adjacent to said tapered guide surface for receiving said handle.

11. A valve of Claim 9 wherein said stem tapers inwardly away from said handle.

12. A valve of Claim 9 wherein said flange is integral with said body.

13. A valve of Claim 9 wherein said stem is held in said valve bore substantially only by frictional force and contact between said flange and said handle.

14. A method using a medical suction device for opening and closing a valve that includes a flange, a stem and a handle connected to said stem, comprising:

opening said valve including engaging said handle and said flange while said handle is being moved.

15. A method of Claim 14 wherein said opening includes causing inward movement of said stem.

16. A method of Claim 15 wherein said flange has a tapered guide surface that is contacted by portions of said handle.
17. A method of Claim 14 wherein said valve is fully opened by moving said handle a first distance and further including, at a later time, opening again said valve to be fully opened while moving said handle a second distance greater than said first distance.
18. A method of Claim 14 wherein said medical suction device includes a body and a valve bore and said stem is held with said body substantially only by engagement between said handle and said flange and friction between said stem and said valve bore.
19. A method of Claim 14 wherein said medical suction device includes a body and said stem is held with said body independently of any fastener.